

1 of judges.

2 We might best approach consideration of the  
3 Committee's recommendation in this area by comparing  
4 the system as it now exists under the present Constitution  
5 with what is proposed by our committee.

6 At the moment, under the existing constitutional  
7 provisions and statutory provisions, except with respect  
8 to judges within the courts of limited jurisdiction, all  
9 other judges are now elected in substantially the following  
10 manner: When a vacancy in the office occurs, the Governor  
11 appoints a member of the Bar to fill the vacancy. It is  
12 customary, although not required, that the appointment is  
13 made from a list by a Bar Association. Such lists frequently  
14 not identical are submitted by both state and bar associa-  
15 tions as well as by organizations of lawyers having common  
16 or mutual interests.

17 There was testimony before our committee, and I  
18 am sure it is true, that of all judges now sitting in  
19 the State of Maryland on the two Courts of Appeals and in our  
20 Circuit Courts, about 70 per cent have been appointed by  
21 our former Govenor, who is a member of this Convention.